

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 STR-05 TRSE-00
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O R 231640Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE 6704
USDA WASHINGTON DC
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 8582

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, RO
SUBJ: REPORTED SWINE DISEASE OUTBREAK

1. US EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THE FRG IS REFUSING TO ISSUE TRANSIT CERTIFICATES FOR SHIPMENTS OF ROMANIAN PORK TO US ARMED FORCE PURCHASERS IN FRG. FRG EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST HAS INFORMED US THAT AS OF OCTOBER, FRG HAS PROHIBITED ALL IMPORTS OF PORK FROM ROMANIA. APPARENT REASON FOR THIS BAN IS THE SUSPICION THAT THE ROMANIAN SWINE POPULATION HAS BEEN INFECTED BY A DISEASE. FRG EMBASSY FURTHER TOLD US THAT ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS, FRG OFFICIALS HAVE INVESTIGATED REPORTED ALLEGATIONS OF SWINE DISEASE. NEITHER INVESTIGATION PRODUCED ANY CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF DISEASE. AN EEC TEAM OF VETERINARIANS RECENTLY COMPLETED YET ANOTHER INVESTIGATION, ACCORDING TO THE FRG EMBASSY. RESULTS OF THE EEC INVESTIGATION ARE UNKNOWN TO THE GERMANS HERE.

2. EMBASSY BUCHAREST WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY BONN'S CONTACTING APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES WITH VIEW TO LEARNING A) IF THE FRG PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS OF ROMANIAN PORK IS STILL IN FORCE,
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AND IF SO B) IF THE FRG AUTHORITIES WILL SHARE WITH US THE SCIENTIFIC/HYGENIC FINDINGS EMPLOYED BY THEM TO JUSTIFY THE PROHIBITION.

3. OUR INTEREST IN THIS SITUATION DERIVES FROM THE FACT THAT LARGE QUANTITIES OF ROMANIAN PORK PRODUCTS ARE EXPORTED TO THE US EACH YEAR. INVESTIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THAT AGATTACHE RESPONSIBLE

FOR ROMANIA, COMPLETED IN OCTOBER, REVEALED NO EVIDENCE OF ANY SWINE DISEASE. US ARMY VETS RESIDENT IN CRAIOVA AND TURNU SEVERIN HAVE INVESTIGATED THEIR AREAS AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF DISEASE. ON THE BASIS OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS, ROMANIAN PORK EXPORTS CONTINUE TO BE DESPATCHED TO THE US. ANOTHER CONCERN FLOWS FROM THE FACT THAT A SHIPMENT OF ROMANIAN PORK TO THE US DEFENSE SUPPLY AGENCY IN THE FRG IS BEING HELD IN ROMANIA DUE TO THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE FRG AUTHORITIES TO ISSUE A TRANSIT CERTIFICATE. IF THE SHIPMENT IS HELD UP FOR AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN DAYS, THE MEAT WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTABLE UNDER THE DEFENSE SUPPLY AGENCY'S REGULATIONS.

4. WE HAVE REQUESTED THE FRG EMBASSY HERE TO CONTACT THE EEC COMMISSION RE ITS INVOLVEMENT. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY MAY WELL BE COMMUNICATING WITH BONN.
AGGREY

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